1992-93. Rewari-Jaipur will be converted in 1993-94 and the entire route would be converted by 1995-96.

(ii) **Swai Madhopur-Jodhpur-Jaisalmer line:** Swai Madhopur-Jaipur (Durgapura) has already been completed. Jaipur-Phulera-Jodhpur will be converted in 1993-94 and Jodhpur-Jaisalmer in 1994-95.

(iii) Pipar Road-Bilara: There is no proposal for converteing this line at present.

(iv) **Merta Road-Merta City:** This will be converted into broad gauge in 1993-94.

(c) No new line is proposed in this area due to constraint of resources. However, the conversion of canal loop from Hanumangarh to Suratgarh is included in the Action Plan for gauge conversion taken up by this Ministry and work on this conversion will be taken up in the coming years as per the availability of resources.

Proposal for LPG Import and Distribution to Private Sector

*305. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering throwing open LPG Import and Distribution to private sector.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the private sector LPG Importers/Distributors will be permitted to charge higher rates from more affluent consumers; and

(c) whether the Public Sector LPG supplies at prescribed/subsidised rates will be restricted to poorer sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) In order to augment the domestic availability of LPG, the private sector has been allowed to undertake marketing of imported LPG for distribution at market prices through its own network. Public Sector companies will continue to market LPG as at present.

Malaysian Restriction on Indians

*306. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malaysian Government have imposed ban on the Indians visiting Malaysia

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The Malaysian Government have however introduced a new legislation which makes it mandatory for visa applicants from India (as well as from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) to apply two months in advance, with a local sponsor paying Malaysian dollars 750 as guarantee that the applicant will return before the expiry of visa.

(b) No reasons have been given.

(c) This was taken up strongly with the Government of Malaysia on the grounds that such restrictions would impede business and economic, as well as people-to-people contract. In response, Malaysian authorities that they are reviewing their decision in this regard.